

- I. **Call to Order:** The RDA meeting was called to order at 8:20 a.m. with **John Clark** convening.
- II. **Roll Call:** Present: Lou Martinez, Harley Snyder, Howard Cohen, John Clark, Bill Joiner and Gus Olympidis were present. Six members were present constituting a quorum.
- III. **Approval of Minutes:** **John Clark** requested approval of minutes from the August 15, 2006 meeting. B. Joiner offered a motion to accept the minutes with a second by H. Snyder. All were in favor and the August 15 minutes were accepted.
- IV. **Report of Chair:** J. Clark acknowledged the one year anniversary of the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority.
- V. **Treasurer's Report:** The RDA currently has \$15,474,165 deposited among three financial institutions in interest-bearing accounts. Total expenses for the months of August and September were \$45,292. Board members would like the report to contain a “budget” column. By the next RDA Board meeting, the treasurer’s report should include the addition. On a motion by B. Joiner and a second by L. Martinez, the treasurer’s report was approved.
- VI. **Discussion:**
  - Munster South Shore Project:** The Town of Munster is proposing to realign the existing 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The RDA has not received a formal request for funding. It is believed that funding from INDOT has not yet been applied for either. These are the kinds of things the RDA is being asked to look at. This plan has also been shared with NICTD, NIRPC, and INDOT. This is considered a mass-transit project and the RDA could be asked to participate in it.
- VII. **Action Items**
  - a. **Employee Manual:** L. Martinez moved to defer the approval of the RDA Employee Manual with a second by B. Joiner. An executive session will be held regarding further reviewing the manual and compensation for the Executive Director.
  - b. **Strategic Planning Contract:** The Strategic Planning working group met with each contractor independently last week to review the proposals. The cost of ACE Consulting is \$234,200, Crowe Chizek and Company LLC is \$229,783 and Policy Analytics is \$79,300. Either ACE or Policy Analytics would be a great fit with the RDA. With a recommendation by T. Sanders to award the contract to Policy Analytics, G. Olympidis offered a motion with a second by B. Joiner. All were in favor and the contract was awarded to Policy Analytics. Policy Analytics has done a lot of work with NIRPC and the Northwest Indiana Forum. However, the RDA wants their strategic plan to be RDA-specific.
  - c. **Accounting Services Contract:** Contracts have been drafted and shared with Terry McMahon and Co. and Joe Krnich & Associates. Terry McMahon had two changes to the contract. On a motion by B. Joiner and a second by H. Snyder, all were in favor and the accounting contracts were approved with the requested changes.
  - d. **Investment Policy:** On a motion by B. Joiner and a second by H. Snyder, all were in favor and the investment policy was approved.
- VIII. **Project Planning Report:**
  - a. **Regional Bus Authority:** There have been several Regional Bus Authority meetings held. The RDA is continuing to fund the RBA administrative fees. There will be 2 more RBA meetings to discuss options on how the bus service should be handled. October 18, 2006 is the next RBA Board meeting.

b. **South Shore:**

There is going to be a meeting tomorrow (October 4) about the commitment of the state from CMAQ for the purchase of new cars. The RDA has already committed to \$8.7 million but has not dispersed it yet. The state funding could be 50% of what the South Shore was anticipating. The South Shore will provide the RDA an updated status report at the November 14 meeting. The South Shore forecast numbers are being re-examined.

c. **Gary/Chicago Airport:**

The Airport wants \$8.2 million from the \$20 million earmarked for them and will request this over a period of time. The remaining \$11.8 million is wanted by next week. The RDA will disperse money on an invoice basis. The Airport's accountants want \$11.8 million in an account of their own for leveraging purposes. The RDA needs to maintain control over their own funds.

B. Joiner motioned to have Chairman J. Clark request from the Office of Management and Budget in Indianapolis to release the \$20 million.

Bill Joiner also motioned to approve \$8.2 million for the Airport.

H. Snyder seconded both of these motions.

The Airport is likely to send invoices to the RDA before the next RDA meeting.  
B. Joiner withdrew the previous motion for the approval of \$8.2 million.

B. Joiner motioned for the approval of the entire \$20 million to be dispersed on an invoice basis to the Airport. H. Snyder seconded this motion. All were in favor and the \$20 million was approved as well as the Chairman's formal request to the Office of Management and Budget to release the funds.

d. **Marquette Plan:**

AJ Monroe, Director – City of Portage Department of Community Planning and Development, provided a status report for the City of Portage Lakefront Park. The RDA will begin to disperse funds to the City of Portage as soon as the RDA starts receiving invoices. Portage will give a 10-15 minute presentation to the RDA Board at the November 14, 2006 meeting.

e. **NIRPC Application**

The Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission is requesting a grant of \$100,000 to use as the required local match for a \$400,000 grant from the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration. The purpose of the grant is to fund data collection for the Household Travel Survey, which is required by the federal transportation and environmental regulations. The survey will be used to update the regional transportation network model for transportation and air quality analysis, including trip generation rates, trip length frequency distributions, and to identify and quantify trip chaining behavior and trips by modes other than car or bus.

On a motion by B. Joiner and a second by L. Martinez, all were in favor and the application was accepted. A working group was formed consisting of C. Fernandez, Chair and H. Cohen.

**IX. Executive Director's Report:**

In order for the RDA Board members to carefully review important documents such as contracts and proposals, items submitted to the RDA office can be considered as agenda items for the next meeting up until one week before the actual meeting.

The RDA is considering on scheduling a meeting in Indianapolis, IN. They are looking at January or February 2007.

**X. Public Comment:**

K. Nelson from the Northwest Indiana Forum invited the RDA to attend a reception in Indianapolis along with NIRPC.

**XI. Adjournment:** Without further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The next RDA Board meeting is scheduled for November 14, 2006. Time and location TBA.

Respectfully submitted by Sherri Shabaz.

October 4, 2006.